



U.S. Department of Justice

**Stephen J. Murphy
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Michigan**

*Suite 2001
211 West Fort Street
Detroit, Michigan 48226-3277
Fax: (313) 226-3561*

For Immediate Release:

Contact: Susan Plochinski (313) 226-9193

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EVENT: Complaint

Defendant: Robert Begley et al

**FOUR INDIVIDUALS CHARGED WITH ATTEMPTING TO
ROB A PHARMACY USING A BOMB THREAT**

Four individuals were charged in a Criminal Complaint today with attempting to rob a pharmacy of oxycodone, methadone, and other controlled substances, as well as conspiring to possess with intent to distribute controlled substances, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

Murphy was joined in the announcement by Special Agent in Charge, Valerie J. Goddard, of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Named in the Complaint were Robert Begley, Randy Begley, Nicole Shippee, and Buddy Gill, all aged nineteen.

The affidavit supporting the Complaint alleges that the four defendants conspired to rob the Michigan Pharmacy, located at 24501 Warren, in Dearborn Heights, Michigan of oxycontin (oxycodone), methadone, and other narcotics. The defendants planned to send an individual into the pharmacy carrying a bag. The defendants then were going to call the pharmacy and threaten to blow it up with a bomb concealed in the bag, unless the pharmacy turned over its

supply of drugs to them. The defendants, however, did not actually have a bomb, and they intended to trick the pharmacy. According to the affidavit, defendant Robert Begley stated that he had previously participated in a burglary of the Michigan Pharmacy on November 24, 2005, when over \$15,000 worth of narcotics had been stolen from the store.

According to the affidavit, on January 11, 2006, the four defendants appeared outside the Michigan Pharmacy to commit the robbery. One of the defendants, Buddy Gill, then telephoned the pharmacy and stated that there was a bomb in the bag that had been brought into the store by an individual, and that if the pharmacist did not fill another bag with every narcotic in the store, they would set off the bomb. Unbeknownst to the four defendants, however, Special Agents of the ATF had already uncovered the plot. An undercover agent was in the pharmacy at the time of the planned robbery, posing as a pharmacy employee. The undercover agent received and recorded the telephoned bomb threat. After the bomb threat was made, ATF agents and Officers of the Dearborn Heights Police Department arrested all four defendants.

The four defendants appeared in federal court this afternoon and were held in temporary pretrial detention based on risk of flight and danger to the community pending detention hearings scheduled for Friday, January 13, 2006.

The Criminal Complaint charges the defendants with conspiring to possess with intent to distribute controlled substances, that is, oxycodone and methadone, and attempting to rob a registered DEA pharmacy using force, violence, and intimidation. Convictions for these offenses carry a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison and a \$1 million fine. Any sentence will ultimately be imposed under the United States Sentence Guidelines according to the nature of the offense and the criminal background, if any, of the defendants.

A complaint is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. Trial cannot be held on felony charges in a complaint. When the investigation is completed, a determination will be made whether to seek a felony indictment.

“Swift reaction by federal law enforcement in this case foiled the defendant's plot to put more dangerous drugs on our streets through the use of a violent threat. I commend the

excellent work of the ATF in stopping this crime, ” said United States Attorney Murphy.

This case is being investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, with the assistance from the Downriver Area Narcotics Organization (DRANO), the Detroit Police Department and the Dearborn Heights Police Department. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney David A. Gardey.